



488 New Britain Road

Corner Farmington Avenue & New Britain Road

1880

Willis Henry Upson (1858-1909) & Clara Warner (1859-1939)

Victorian

1855 map – an earlier house on site? Owned by William Kellogg (1795-1872), a blacksmith, buried in Ledge Cemetery.

1867 map – William Kellogg

1985 Townwide Historic and Architectural Survey of Berlin, Connecticut. Survey # 122

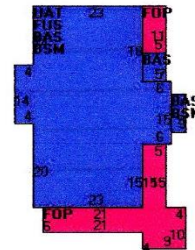
1895 Willis H. Upson current owner: Town of Berlin – Senior Center Victorain

The Upson family had fairly extensive holdings in this area of Kensington and operated a grocery store and post office on Four Rod Road (still extant) for several decades. Willis Upson died in 1910. The house is now a senior citizens center.

2018 Town of Berlin GIS Index.

1880 current owner: SJC Investments LLC (presently Dorio Professional Building)

Sketch



Genealogy

Succeeded R.R. Upson. Operated grocery store and Post Office on Four Rod Road. Had dry goods, groceries and shoes during JULY 1889. Represented Berlin in Legislature in 1885; was Selectman in 1890 and 1895. He lived at 488 New Britain Road, Kensington in circa 1895. He was secretary of Berlin Savings Bank from 1888-1909. He was deacon at Kensington Congregational Church 07 AUG 1901 - 01 APR 1909. Had ad in 1897 Berlin Agricultural Fair Bulletin, "In new bank building near Depot, Kensington -groceries, dry goods, shoes." Hale Cemetery Records - p.162

Willis Henry Upson (1858-1909) son of William Upson & Mary Hart. In 1883 he married Clara Warner (1859-1939) daughter of Erastus Warner & Eliza Whitlock. They had children: Harold, Warren, Lura. They are buried in South Burying Ground.

HISTORIC RESOURCES INVENTORY
BUILDING AND STRUCTURES
HIST-6 NEW 5/77

STATE OF CONNECTICUT
 CONNECTICUT HISTORICAL COMMISSION
 59 SOUTH PROSPECT STREET, HARTFORD, CONNECTICUT 06106
 (203) 566-3005

#122

FOR OFFICE USE ONLY	
Town No.:	Site No.:
UTM:	
QUAD:	
DISTRICT	IF NR. SPECIFY
<input type="checkbox"/> S <input type="checkbox"/> NR	<input type="checkbox"/> Actual <input type="checkbox"/> Potential

IDENTIFICATION		DESCRIPTION	
1. BUILDING NAME (Common)		1. BUILDING NAME (Historic)	
Senior Citizens of Berlin		Willis H. Upson House	
2. TOWN CITY	VILLAGE	COUNTY	
Berlin	Kensington	Hartford	
3. STREET AND NUMBER (and/or location)		DATE OF CONSTRUCTION	
488 New Britain Road		9-1/47/2	
4. OWNER(S)		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Public <input type="checkbox"/> Private	
Town of Berlin			
5. USE (Present)		5. USE (Historic)	
Offices		Residence	
6. ACCESSIBILITY TO PUBLIC:		6. ACCESSIBILITY TO PUBLIC:	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No		<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No	
7. STYLE OF BUILDING		7. STYLE OF BUILDING	
Victorian Vernacular		c. 1895	
8. MATERIAL(S) (Indicate use or location when appropriate)		8. MATERIAL(S) (Indicate use or location when appropriate)	
<input type="checkbox"/> Clapboard <input type="checkbox"/> Asbestos Siding <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Brick <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify) Vinyl siding		<input type="checkbox"/> Wood Shingle <input type="checkbox"/> Asphalt Siding <input type="checkbox"/> foundation	
<input type="checkbox"/> Board & Batten <input type="checkbox"/> Stucco <input type="checkbox"/> Cobblestone		<input type="checkbox"/> Aluminum Siding <input type="checkbox"/> Concrete Type: <input type="checkbox"/> Cut stone Type:	
9. STRUCTURAL SYSTEM		9. STRUCTURAL SYSTEM	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Wood frame <input type="checkbox"/> Post and beam <input type="checkbox"/> balloon		<input type="checkbox"/> Load bearing masonry <input type="checkbox"/> Structural iron or steel	
<input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify)		<input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify)	
10. ROOF (Type)		10. ROOF (Type)	
<input type="checkbox"/> Gable <input type="checkbox"/> Flat <input type="checkbox"/> Mansard <input type="checkbox"/> Monitor <input type="checkbox"/> sawtooth		<input type="checkbox"/> Gambrel <input type="checkbox"/> Shed <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Hip <input type="checkbox"/> Round <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify) Complex massing	
(Material)		(Material)	
<input type="checkbox"/> Wood Shingle <input type="checkbox"/> Roll Asphalt <input type="checkbox"/> Tin <input type="checkbox"/> Slate <input type="checkbox"/> Gable end to the street		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Asphalt shingle <input type="checkbox"/> Built up <input type="checkbox"/> Tile <input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify) <input type="checkbox"/> Ridge parallel to the street	
11. NUMBER OF STORIES		11. NUMBER OF STORIES	
2 1/2		24' x 49'	
12. CONDITION (Structural)		12. CONDITION (Exterior)	
<input type="checkbox"/> Excellent <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Good <input type="checkbox"/> Fair <input type="checkbox"/> Deteriorated		<input type="checkbox"/> Excellent <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Good <input type="checkbox"/> Fair <input type="checkbox"/> Deteriorated	
13. INTEGRITY (Location)		13. INTEGRITY (Alterations)	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> On original site <input type="checkbox"/> Moved WHEN?		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No Siding	
14. RELATED OUTBUILDINGS OR LANDSCAPE FEATURES		14. RELATED OUTBUILDINGS OR LANDSCAPE FEATURES	
<input type="checkbox"/> Barn <input type="checkbox"/> Shed <input type="checkbox"/> Garage <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Other landscape features or buildings (Specify)		<input type="checkbox"/> Carriage house <input type="checkbox"/> Shop <input type="checkbox"/> Garden	
		Parking lot to south.	
15. SURROUNDING ENVIRONMENT		15. SURROUNDING ENVIRONMENT	
<input type="checkbox"/> Open land <input type="checkbox"/> Wood-land <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Residential <input type="checkbox"/> Scattered buildings visible from site		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Commercial <input type="checkbox"/> Industrial <input type="checkbox"/> Rural <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> High building density	
16. INTERRELATIONSHIP OF BUILDING AND SURROUNDINGS		16. INTERRELATIONSHIP OF BUILDING AND SURROUNDINGS	
		On a knoll overlooking Kensington Center.	

PHOTO COMPILED BY	PHOTOGRAPHER HRC	DATE 11/84
	VIEW NW	NEGATIVE ON FILE A29A
	NAME Historic Resource Consultants	DATE 12/84
	ADDRESS The Colt Armory 55 Van Dyke Avenue Hartford, Connecticut 06108	
20. SUBSEQUENT FIELD EVALUATION:		



DESCRIPTION (Continued)	17. OTHER NOTABLE FEATURES OF BUILDING OR SITE (interior and/or exterior)	
	<p>The Willis Upson House is a large house with a roughly cruciform plan. Both the main house and side projections feature hip roofs and small gabled wall dormers; dormers on the front and rear elevations are off-center. The two-bay facade has a left entry; the original entry door has a single large light over panels. A one-story porch with a shallow roof extends across the facade and wraps around to the right ell; a small framed-in extension continues to the rear of the right ell. The porch features turned posts and a stickwork frieze; posts are paired and tripled at the corners. The jigsawn post brackets have roll-molded edges, raised circular bosses, and panels with incised sunburst designs. The turned balusters are topped by a plain rail. There is a pedimented peak centered over the entry, and a (continued)</p>	
	18. ARCHITECT	BUILDER
SIGNIFICANCE	19. HISTORICAL OR ARCHITECTURAL IMPORTANCE	
	<p>Despite much modern alteration, the Willis Upson House is significant as a good example of Victorian Vernacular architecture. The ornamental woodwork typical of the style is seen in the elaborate detail of the porch, with its turned posts and balusters, carved post brackets, and stickwork frieze. In the middle of the 19th century, advances in mechanized lathes, saws, drills and other basic wood-forming tools made decorative woodwork widely affordable and its use became widespread during the Victorian period, especially as in this house for creating highly decorative porch detail. The applied bosses, carved edge moldings, and incised designs relate the house's woodwork to the Eastlake-style furniture popular in the period.</p> <p>Willis Upson, a grocer, probably built this house about 1895. (continued)</p>	
SOURCES	<p>1880 Census 1900 Census Berlin Land Records 51:557</p>	

Willis Upson House

17. (continued):

large round pavillion with a conical roof at the right-front corner of the porch. On all elevations, the bulk of window, wall, and eave detailing is obscured by modern siding and sash; a diamond-pane stair window survives near the front of the left elevation.

19. (continued):

The Upson family had fairly extensive holdings in this area of Kensington and operated a grocery store and post office on Four Rod Road (still extant) for several decades. Willis Upson died in 1910. The house is now a senior citizens center.